

Urban District Council of Newbiggin by the Sea

ANNUAL REPORT

of the



Medical Officer of Health

and the

Public Health Inspector

for the Year

1969

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

To the Chairman and Members of Newbiggin-by-Sea Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

I have the honour to present to you the report of the Medical Officer of Health and that of the Public Health Inspector for the year 1969.

The vital statistics for the year were very satisfactory. The population increased from 9,960 in 1968 to 10,130 in 1969. There was a fall in the adjusted birth rate from 14 per 1,000 of the population to 12.5, compared with the national figure of 16.3, a fall in the still birth rate from 14 to 8 per 1,000 live and still births and a fall in the infantile mortality rate from 36 to 32 per 1,000 live births.

The number of deaths which occurred in 1969 also fell, from 120 to 113, giving an adjusted death rate of 14 per 1,000 of the population, compared with the national figure of 11.9. The number of persons who died from diseases of the heart and circulatory system fell markedly from 60 in 1968 to 42 in 1969, and the number who died from cancer was reduced by one; the death rates of cancer of the lung and bronchus and of all sites were both lower than the national levels. No death occurred from tuberculosis during the year.

For the second year in succession Newbiggin was relatively free from infectious disease. Only one case of pulmonary tuberculosis was notified and it was investigated with regard to housing conditions. The Council has always expressed concern and has been most co-operative in regard to the rehousing of this type of patient, however, in this case, the housing conditions were found to be satisfactory.

At the end of September, a thirteen-year-old boy living at the east end of the town, was notified as suffering from infective hepatitis. In the following fortnight, two further cases were notified from the same district and by the end of October seven notifications had been received from this area and one from Spital. During November nine cases were reported, mainly from the east end of Newbiggin, and by the end of the year a total of twenty one cases had been notified - two of these in adults aged 32 and 24 years respectively.

This disease which is caused by an unidentified virus and which is world-wide in distribution, only became notifiable in this country in June 1968, and it was after that date that an estimate of the number of cases occurring locally in the area could be obtained.

In infective hepatitis the incubation period may be as long as six weeks so that epidemics tend to be long and drawn-out. For ~~every~~ case in which jaundice develops, it is estimated that there may be ten cases in the community which do not develop jaundice, & since generally it is only when jaundice shows itself that the patient's doctor is consulted, it follows that the disease is much more wide-spread than the number of notified cases would indicate.

The virus is present in the faeces for two to three weeks before the occurrence of jaundice, and for about one week after, and the route of spread of infection is generally from infected hands to the mouth. From this brief account of infective hepatitis it will be obvious that isolation of patients helps very little in the spread of infection, for the patients are rarely isolated before they are jaundiced and they will have already been infectious for two to three weeks. Apart from these jaundiced cases, there must be many undiagnosed mild cases without jaundice occurring in the community and these patients will not be isolated. The only effective action to be taken in an effort to stem the spread of an epidemic, is strict attention to personal hygiene, but it must be emphasized that the provision of washing and other facilities may not always reduce the incidence of the disease; it is essential that these facilities be utilized.

Undoubtedly, cases of infective hepatitis will continue to occur in Newbiggin for some time and it was considered after consultation with the general practitioners and health visitors, that attempts to prevent the spread of infection should be confined to improving the standards of personal hygiene in affected households and in the schools, which were all visited.

Not a single case of measles was notified in Newbiggin during 1969. The following table showing the numbers of notified cases of measles in Newbiggin over the past ten years, illustrates the tendency to the two-yearly cycle of occurrence of the disease.

1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969
3	212	4	111	85	36	11	250	18	0

One would have expected 1969 to have been the biennial epidemic year for measles, but the vaccination campaign carried out in 1968 probably had its desired effect.

Unfortunately, the measles vaccination campaign which got off to a good start in 1968 came to a temporary halt in March 1969, with the suspension of vaccine produced by one firm. As a result, only 419 children were vaccinated against measles in the whole of the Central Area of Northumberland during 1969, in comparison with 1,096 in the previous year. It is hoped that when measles vaccine becomes readily available once again, vaccination against this disease will be accepted as a routine procedure to follow immunisation against diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus and poliomyelitis in the second year of life.

During the month of June, a rise in the dinoflagellate toxin in mussels collected along the adjacent shores of the coast, was reported by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. As a result, the Public Health Inspector contacted and warned Newbiggin fishermen of the danger, and posted notices along the shore warning the public not to collect these shellfish.

At the end of November information was received from a veterinary surgeon of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries that a dog had had a fit and gone berserk in Newbiggin on that day and had had to be shot, that the carcase had been sent for post-mortem examination and that the case was being treated as one of suspected rabies. The dog had bitten its owner eight days previously and it was a matter of great concern that if indeed rabies were confirmed, the bite would certainly have proved fatal to the owner of the dog. To be effective, vaccination against this disease must be carried out within 72 hours of the bite being received. Two other dogs in the household were held in close quarantine until the results of the post-mortem examination were received.

A further complication of the case was the fact that the dog was a 'stray' which the owner had obtained from a 'cat and dog shelter' in another county one month previously. It required several days of intensive investigation by officers of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries to trace the original owner of the dog, which had only been in the shelter for nine days. This was necessary in order to confirm that the dog had not been brought into the country from abroad and that it had not escaped from a ship berthed in the river Tyne.

It was with some relief that, after four days, the result of the microscopical examination of the brain tissue of the dog was received from the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and was negative for the rabies virus. A further three weeks elapsed before a final, confirmatory negative result was received from the biological test on the brain tissue, and the two other dogs of the owner could be allowed out of quarantine.

Finally, I should like once again to express my appreciation for the help which I have been given by Mrs. Hay during the year, for the co-operation of the Public Health Inspector and other Council Officials, and for the continued interest and support of the members of the Council.

I am,
Mr. Chairman and Councillors,
Your obedient Servant,
K. Dick, M.B., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health.

Chairman of the Public Health Committee - Councillor D.W. Burton

OFFICERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health	KATHLEEN DICK, M.B., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H.
Public Health Inspector	E. BIRKIN, M.A.P.H.T.
Offices of the Medical Officer	156, Woodhorn Road, Ashington.
Clerk to the Medical Officer	Mrs. M. Hay
Telephone	Ashington 2287/3442
Offices of the P.H. Inspector	Front Street, Newbiggin-by-Sea
Clerk to the P.H. Inspector	Mrs. S. Simpson
Telephone	Newbiggin 350

Area in Acres	1,840
Registrar-General's Estimate of resident population Mid-1969	10,130
Rateable Value	£243,990
One Penny Rate Produces	£900
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1969)	3,648
Total number of houses owned by Local Authority	1,631



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VITAL STATISTICS

(figures for England and Wales are in brackets)

BIRTHS

<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	119	63	56
Illegitimate	7	4	3
	126	67	59

Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population 12.4
Local Adjusted Birth Rate (Crude Birth Rate x Comparability Factor 1.01) 12.5 (16.3)
Ratio of local adjusted birth rate to national rate 0.77
Illegitimate live births as per centage of all live births 6 (8)

<u>Still Births.</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	1	1	-
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	1	1	-

Rate per 1,000 of the total (live and still) births 8 (13)

DEATHS

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
	113	63	50
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of the population	11.2		
Local Adjusted Death Rate (Comparability Factor 1.25 x Crude Death Rate) 14			(11.9)
Ratio of local adjusted death rate to national rate	1.18		
Deaths from Puerperal Causes, Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	NIL		
Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 total (live and still births)	NIL		

<u>Deaths of Infants under 1 year</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	4	2	2
All infants per 1,000 live births	32		(18)

<u>Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	2	1	1
Neonatal Death Rate (Deaths under 4 weeks of age per 1,000 live births) 16			(12)

<u>Deaths of Infants under 1 week</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	1	1	-
Early Neonatal Death Rate (Deaths under 1 week per 1,000 live births) 8			(10)
Perinatal Death Rate (Stillbirths and Deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total (live and still) births 16			(23)

CAUSES OF DEATH IN AGE GROUPS

CAUSES OF DEATH IN AGE GROUPS

cont.

PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH IN NEWBIGGIN-BY-SEA.

DISEASE	Total Number	% of Total Deaths
Diseases of Heart and Circulatory System	42	37.2
Malignant Neoplasms	22	19.5
Cerebrovascular Disease	20	17.7
Pneumonia, Bronchitis & Emphysema	15	13.3
TOTAL	99	87.7

INFANTILE MORTALITY

The following table gives details of the causes of death in the different age groups during the past year.

	1 - 6 days	1 week	2 weeks	3 weeks	Total under 1 mth	1 - 3 months	4 - 6 months	7 - 9 months	10-12 months	Total under 1 year
Congenital Heart Disease	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	1	1	2
Cord Prolapse	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	1	1	1
Neuroblastoma	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	1	1	1
TOTAL	1	-	-	1	2	1	-	1	1	4

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

CASES NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR

IMMUNISATIONS CARRIED OUT IN THE CENTRAL AREA OF NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY DURING 1969.

DISEASE YEAR OF BIRTH	PRIMARY IMMUNISATION					Others under 16 years	TOTAL							
	1969	1968	1967	1966	1962-65									
Diphtheria	6	677	52	4	20	14	773							
Whooping Cough	6	670	49	2	10	-	737							
Tetanus	6	677	52	4	23	54	816							
Poliomyelitis	7	666	54	7	20	5	759							
Measles	-	25	122	89	169	14	419							
<u>RE-INFORCING DOSES</u>														
Diphtheria	-	3	641	67	950	14	1675							
Whooping Cough	-	3	613	52	36	-	704							
Tetanus	-	4	643	71	963	595	2276							
Poliomyelitis	-	3	648	69	953	684	2357							
<u>SMALLPOX</u>	<u>No. of children vaccinated</u>					<u>No. revaccinated</u>								
<u>Age at date of vaccination.</u>														
Under 1 year						11								
1 year						88								
2 - 4 years						47								
5 -15 years						18								
TOTAL						164								
<u>TUBERCULOSIS</u>														
<u>NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1969</u>														
	NEW CASES						DEATHS							
	Resp.		Non-Resp.				Resp.	Non-Resp.						
	M.	F.	M.	F.	Tot.	M.	F.	M.	F.	Tot.				

Under 1 year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 4 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 -14 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15-24 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25-34 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35-44 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45-54 years	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
55-64 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65-74 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
75 years & over	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-

Death Rate from Respiratory Tuberculosis in Newbiggin	NIL
Death Rate from Respiratory Tuberculosis in England and Wales	0.022 per 1,000
Death Rate from Other Forms of Tuberculosis in Newbiggin	NIL
Death Rate from Other Forms of Tuberculosis in England and Wales	0.015 per 1,000

MALIGNANT NEOPLASMS

The Registrar-General's figures have been used in calculating the death-rates given below.

Malignant Neoplasm of the Lung and Bronchus

Death Rate in Newbiggin-by-Sea	0.49 per 1,000 pop.
Death Rate in England and Wales	0.610 per 1,000 pop.

Malignant Neoplasms of All other Sites

Death Rate in Newbiggin-by-Sea	1.7 per 1,000 pop.
Death Rate in England and Wales	1.740 per 1,000 pop.

Malignant Neoplasms of All Sites

Death Rate in Newbiggin-by-Sea	2.3 per 1,000 pop.
Death Rate in England and Wales	2.350 per 1,000 pop.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Ambulance Facilities.

These are provided by Northumberland County Council ambulances based on the Station at West View, Ashington, where 16 drivers and 1 station officer are employed, working three eight-hour shifts, maintaining a 24-hour service.

All ambulances are fitted with radio and can be controlled from a central Control Room at Wideopen.

Maternity and Child Welfare Services.

Northumberland County Council is the authority responsible for these services and clinics are held at Jubilee Terrace, Newbiggin as follows:-

- Baby Clinics
- Ante-natal Clinics
- Toddler Clinics
- Immunisation Clinics
- Ante-natal and relaxation classes
- Post-natal and cervical smear clinics
- Chiropody Sessions
- Young Mothers' Club
- Playgroup - run by Young Mothers' Club

The clinic held for many years at North Seaton Colliery, was closed down during the year owing to the rehousing of the Colliery inhabitants at North Seaton Estate.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

Year ended 31st December 1969

PUBLIC HEALTH AND HOUSING ACTS

1. HOUSING

Statement of Housing for the year 1970

New Houses completed during the year

a)	By Local Authority	98
b)	By any other Housing Authority	69
c)	By private persons	97

Closing and Demolition

1.	Houses demolished in Clearance Areas	159
2.	Houses demolished not in Clearance Areas	Nil
3.	Houses closed, not demolished	Nil
4.	Any other houses permanently discontinued as dwellings and not included in above	Nil

Repairs

Houses made fit by procedure under either Housing or Public Health Acts

5.	By informal action	Nil
6.	By owners, following statutory notice	Nil
7.	By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil
8.	Demolition Orders revoked after reconstructions	Nil

Houses Patched

9.	Houses in Clearance Areas still in use at end of the year for temporary accommodation	Nil
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Clearance Programme

10.	Number of unfit houses in clearance programme remaining to be dealt with at end of year	171
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Improvement Grants

<u>Discretionary Grants</u>	<u>No. of separate houses</u>
1. Applications submitted to Local Authority	12
2. Applications rejected	Nil
3. Applications approved	12
4. Approximate average grant approved per house	Pre 1969 Act £346 1969 Act £343
5. Total number of houses approved for grant in the area since inception of scheme	226

Standard Grants

During the year

Total to date

1.	No. of separate houses for which grants have been made	7	139
2.	No. of Houses so provided with:-		
a)	Bath or shower	Nil	88
b)	Wash hand basin	Nil	85
c)	Hot Water Supply	Nil	76
d)	Water Closet	7	123
e)	Food Store	Nil	48

Local Authority Houses

1.	Total no. of houses owned by Local Authority	1793
2.	Total no. of inhabited houses in district	3648

HOUSES IN MULTIPLE OCCUPATION

The new definition of the Housing Act 1969 of what constitutes a house in multiple occupation brings within its scope various types of boarding and lodging houses and up until quite recently, Newbiggin was surprisingly free of this type of house for a sea-side area, but with the advent of the construction of the Power Station and Smelting Plant at Lynemouth, there has been an influx of casual labour and many houses in Newbiggin, even Council houses, have started taking in boarders. Several of these houses have been inspected during the year, but it is very difficult to find out the exact number which are affected. The VI Schedule of the Housing Act, which lays down overcrowding standards and the various standards which are laid in the Acts for houses in multiple occupation, can now be seen to be wholly unsuitable and in my opinion sets too low a standard for the maintainance of good conditions within the household.

NORTH SEATON COLLIERY COMPULSORY PURCHASE ORDER 1968

In April of this year, demolition of the empty houses within North Seaton Colliery was begun and by December some 159 premises were demolished, this being almost half of the houses which are to be cleared in the whole scheme. Initially there were some quite serious problems arose with rodents, etc., which of course infest the empty premises left standing for any length of time, and care had to be taken to seal off all drainage outlets, but with the co-operation of the demolition contractor, these now seem to have passed. In the latter part of the re-housing, several couples were left in virtually empty streets and some special cases of disrepair arose within the households, but due to the completion of the Conveyance, the Council became the owners of the land and premises and the repairs were effected quite speedily by the Surveyor's Department and helped obviate any serious housing problems arising.

WILKIE TERRACE - PROPOSED CLEARANCE AREA

This proposed clearance area, which it is hoped to deal with next year as a Compulsory Purchase Order, has been inspected and scheduled this year, and now that North Seaton Colliery appears to be drawing to a completion, it is hoped to remove what is the last serious area of unfit housing within the Newbiggin District which can be treated under the demolition procedures of the Housing Acts.

2. PUBLIC HEALTH

WATER SUPPLY

Tynemouth Water Corporation is the Water Undertaker in the area and the water, as always, was excellent during the year in both quantity and quality. Average consumption was gallons per head per day. All houses are supplied by public mains and virtually 100% have the water piped directly into the house. The only complaints received during the year was some discolouration of the water due to mains cleaning.

SAMPLES TAKEN

Two samples were taken in the Newbiggin area and no coliform bacteria were present in either sample.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The Woodhorn Scheme for connecting the seven remaining houses to the mains system has been inspected by the Ministry, the tender has been accepted for the work of laying the mains and pumping station and work has started on the first stage of the scheme. Subsequent stages will depend on each individual owner applying for an Improvement Grant for the construction of an internal flush toilet within each dwelling.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

Twice weekly collections are made to all houses with the exception of the new North Seaton Estates. An additional burden on the collection services are the caravan sites and the Alcan Power Station construction site.

The flooding of the Newbiggin Tip which caused a great deal of trouble last year was obviated to a great extent by the construction of an overflow drain to the Newbiggin Mains system which had the effect of draining all the surplus water and so stop the flooding of the tip road, the tip itself and part of an adjoining small-holding.

One of the many problems which has to be faced is that the fly ash settlement tanks which Alcan are to build to receive the residue from the Power Station will take in all the Newbiggin Tip and this will leave only the comparatively small North Seaton Tip for all the future disposal needs of the district and problems can be seen arising from this in the very near future.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

The Public conveniences in the area were as usual vandalised and were also the subject of some complaints written in to the Office from visitors to the area. The complaints generally took the form of remarks as to the cleanliness of the toilets, which reflects once again on the strange personal habits of some people, as the toilets are washed out twice a day at least.

CARAVAN SITES - (CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT) ACT 1960

The Caravan sites at Sandy Bay and the Moor have given rise to very few complaints and problems in the course of the year. After some four years of involvement, discussions, letters and committee work, the National Coal Board have finally completed the upward flow sedimentation tank at the Sandy Bay site, and this now takes the sewage from the site and after treatment disposes of the effluent direct to the River Wansbeck. A new block of toilets is also to be erected at Sandy Bay for the new season.

ITINERANT CARAVANS

Very little trouble has been experienced during the year with caravans parked at the roadside, etc., and as the Lyne Sands area has now been taken over as part of the Power Station Site, this has removed one of the favourite parking places of this type of caravan.

CLEAN AIR ACT 1956

When the initial proposal came through for the siting of the Smelter and Power Station complex, one of the obvious questions which was raised on the grounds of public health was what would be the likely effect on the level of pollution within the Urban District both from the Power Station in the form of grit and dust and sulphur dioxide, and from the Smelter Plant in the form of particulate and gaseous fluoride. Building operations started this year and it was not until late in the year it was received within the Public Health Department details of the heating plant together with the proximate analysis of the fuel to be used which were necessary for the confirmation of the chimney height. Representations were made to both the Alkali Works Inspectorate and to Alcan (U.K.) Limited with a view to obtaining readings from their instrumentation both within and without the installation in order that some check could be made upon the volume emission and the efficiency of the precipitator equipment.

This proposal was turned down flat by the Company and as the present law stands, no-one except the Alkaline Works Inspector is allowed to see such readings without the prior approval of the Company concerned.

A meeting was therefore called between the Medical Officer of Health and the four Chief Public Health Inspectors for the area which he is responsible and the decision was taken that each Public Health Inspector would set up within his district some form of monitoring apparatus as soon as practical in order that the levels of pollution within each area could be measured. This to be set at a standard level against when the plant is in full operation.

Condemnations were as follows:-

Cattle

<u>Organ</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Reason for Condemnation</u>	<u>Approx. Weight</u>
Lungs	11 prs.	Fluke Abscess	176 lbs
"	1 pr.	Pleurisy	16 lbs
Livers	32	Fascioliasis	384 lbs
"	16	Abscessed	192 lbs
"	1	Cirrhosis and Fascioliasis	12 lbs
"	3	Cirrhosis	36 lbs
Part Livers	36	Fascioliasis	180 lbs
" "	1	Fluke Abscess	5 lbs
" "	2	Cirrhosis	10 lbs

Sheep

Trimmings		Septic Fistula	3 lbs
Whole Livers	27	Distomiasis	81 lbs
" "	2	Hydatitosis	6 lbs
" "	1	Fluke Abscess	3 lbs
" "	1	Abscessed	3 lbs
Lungs	1 pr.	Pleurisy	3 lbs
Heart	1	Sarcocytis	1½ lbs
Leg	1	Arthritis	5 lbs
Hind Leg	1	Septic Arthritis	5 lbs
Plucks	1	Carsanomia	4 lbs
"	1	Pericarditis	4 lbs

Pigs

Whole Livers	42	Ascariasis	126 lbs
" "	3	Cirrhosis	9 lbs
" "	2	Peritonitis and Pericarditis	10 lbs
" "	2	Pericarditis and Ascariasis	10 lbs
Lungs	20 pr.	Pneumonia	208 lbs
"	2 pr.	Pericarditis and Pneumonia	4 lbs
Heart and Lungs	8	Pericarditis	
Hind Legs	2	Arthritis	

OTHER FOODS

The following articles of food were found to be unfit for human consumption and were condemned:-

242 tins consisting of meat, vegetables and fruit
 22 lbs of Bacon
 12 lbs of tinned Corned Beef
 1 Gravid Uterus from heifer weighing 40 lbs

FACTORIES ACT 1961

Inspections

Premises	No. on Register	Number of Inspections	Number of	
			Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
1. Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by L.A.	12	-	-	-
2. Factories not included in 1 in which Section 7 is enforced by L.A.	11	7	2	-
3. Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by L.A. (excl. Outworkers Premises)	4	-	-	-
Total	27	7	2	-

Cases in which defects were found

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M.	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness	1	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate Ventilation	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences					
a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
b) Unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-	-
c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	-	-	-	-	-

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT

Rodent Control

The Contract System which was started for the first time last year has continued again this year with Messrs. Rentokil Limited and appears to work satisfactorily. The efficiency of the system obviously depends upon the standard of the operator within the contracting company and although one operator is working mainly within this district, several have deputised for him at various times and all appear to be highly trained and efficient. As mentioned last year, the use of Fluorokil 3 in the sewers in the area is having a marked effect on the rats on the surface. Once again after treatment of 150 manholes the complaints fell to a very low level indeed.

Rats	85
Mice	12

Insect Control

Cockroaches	101
Wasp	1
Bed Bugs	2
Earwigs	4
Garden Beetles	1
Caterpillars	3

Mosquitoes

There have been few complaints of mosquitoes received during the year and instead of the usual treatment, a wettable Malathion powder was spread this year.

Pigeons

In common it seems with many other Local Authorities, the nuisance of the feral pigeon seems to be on the increase and it is a difficult matter to keep under control. The usual method of trapping the birds was not very successful in this area due to a lack of suitable trapping sites. Representations to the Ministry about the use of narcotised grain produced a less than enthusiastic response. In the end a .22 air rifle was purchased and authority has been given by the Chief Constable to allow myself to shoot the birds within the area, even on the main street. Approx. 94 birds were shot last year but the problem is obviously a recurring one and not one which could be solved within any given time.

